

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 01572

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJ: UK PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF COCOM CRITERIA
AND EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURE

REF: STATE 179102, 7/20/76

1. IN CONVERSATION ON UK PROPOSALS FOR LIST REVIEW
REORGANIZATION (SEPTTEL), US AND UKDELS ALSO DISCUSSED
BRIEFLY THE UK PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF CRITERIA AND
EXCEPTION PROCEDURE.

2. UKDEL PRICE SAID UK PURPOSE WAS TO RENDER THE LISTS
AND COCOM "MORE CREDIBLE" TO INDUSTRY IN ALL MEMBER
COUNTRIES. FIRST, IT WOULD LEAD TO A SHORTER EMBARGO
LIST. SECOND, A SHORTER LIST WOULD MEAN FEWER EXCEP-
TION REQUESTS. THIRD, THOSE REQUESTS SUBMITTED WOULD
NEED TO BE MORE THOROUGHLY SUPPORTED THAN AT PRESENT.
HE DENIED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY SHIFTING OF BURDEN
OF PROOF TO AN OBJECTING DELEGATION.

3. COCOM'S PURPOSE AND ITS MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT, PRICE
REFLECTED, WERE TO MAINTAIN A TECHNOLOGICAL GAP BETWEEN
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE COCOM COUNTRIES. HE FELT
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THAT THE UK PROPOSALS WOULD EFFECTIVELY MAINTAIN THE
GAP, ALTHOUGH NARROWING IT SLIGHTLY. HE AGREED THAT
THE AMENDMENTS WOULD ALLOW EXPORT TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IF IT DID NOT "HAVE A SIGNIFICANT
ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE SECURITY OF THE MEMBER STATES"
OR "DIMINISH TO AN UNACCEPTABLE EXTENT A STRATEGICALLY
SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE." THUS, PRICE

FELT, THE SPEY ENGINE DEAL INVOLVED OLD TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD NOT DO EITHER OF THOSE THINGS.

4. USDEL OFFERED OPINION THAT WORDS SUCH AS "SIGNIFICANT", "ADVERSE", AND "UNACCEPTABLE" COULD PROVIDE FOOD FOR UNLIMITED ARGUMENT AS TO THEIR INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION IN ANY GIVEN CONTEXT. PRICE AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO. NEVERTHELESS HE DEFENDED THE PROPOSALS AS A STEP FORWARD FOR COCOM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION FROM USDEL, PRICE SAW NO REASON WHY UK PROPOSALS COULD NOT BE COMBINED WITH BUCY REPORT CONCEPT OF EMBARGO CENTERED PRIMARILY ON TECHNOLOGY, ALTHOUGH HE ADHERED TO VIEW THAT THERE MUST CONTINUE TO BE CONTROLS ON MANY TYPES OF END-PRODUCTS AS WELL.

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